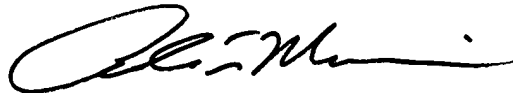


**REMARKS**

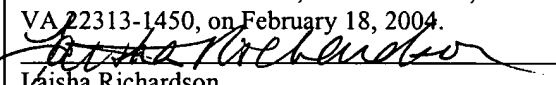
Applicants have amended Claim 15 and 19 to put these claims in proper form for examination. The amendment to Claim 15 is supported by the specification at page 27, lines 24-27. The amendment to Claim 19 is supported by the specification at page 5, lines 1-3.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew T. Meunier  
Registration No. 40,726

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| <b>Customer No. 00826</b><br><b>ALSTON &amp; BIRD LLP</b><br>Bank of America Plaza<br>101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000<br>Charlotte, NC 28280-4000<br>Tel Atlanta Office (404) 881-7000<br>Fax Atlanta Office (404) 881-7777 | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 18, 2004.</p> <br>Laisha Richardson |
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